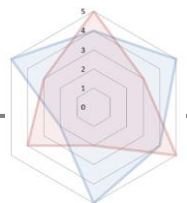


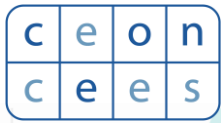


REVIEWING REVIEWERS: AN INNOVATIVE TOOL FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF LOCAL DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

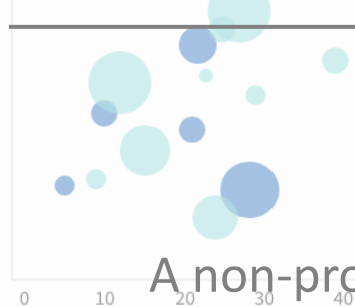
Nikola Stanić, Dragoljub Đorđević, Pero Šipka

Centre for Evaluation in Education and Science (CEON/CEES), Belgrade, Serbia





Status of CEON/CEES

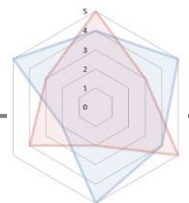


A non-profit organization:

- earlier financed by the Ministry of Science of Republic of Serbia
- now by journal publishers and universities, under special contracts

The main area of expertise:

- building an Open Access digital infrastructure
- journals' quality control
- enhancing articles' quality
- promotion of selected journals internationally



c	e	o	n
c	e	e	s

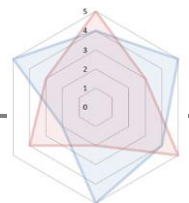
Main products

Main products:

- SCIndeks – Serbian Citation Index
- SCIndeks Assistant – Journal management system
- JBR – Journal Bibliometric Report

SCIndeks – Serbian Citation Index:

- a hybrid Open Access platform: full-text database, plus citation index
- highly integrated with our OJS-based JMS (SCIndeks Assistant)
- a source for evaluating and promoting journals' quality



Search: basic advanced →

text:

in article titles, abstracts and keywords

in article full

in cited refer

names:

of article aut

of cited refer

Reviewing Reviewers - Assessment of reviewers

A tool built in SCIndeks Assistant to ensure standard assessment of peer reviews written at the editor's demand. While editors rate the quality of reviews, authors evaluate reviewers in terms of their contribution to the improvement of submitted manuscripts. The tool quantifies and accumulates results for all reviewers and compiles an annual report that can guide the Editorial Board in training, ranking, and selecting reviewers.

SCIndeks system at a glance

To get the idea about elements,

SCIndeks is the central hub of the integrated system of quality-controlled scientific publishing in Serbia:
The joint venture of CEON/CEES and indexed journal publishers

FUNCTIONS & FEATURES

Availability Visibility Searchability Normalization **Quality Control** Legitimacy Promotion Monitoring Evaluation

SCINDEKS ENTITIES

REPOSITORIES: DOAJ, OpenAire, NaRDuS

DATABASES: WoS/JCR, Scopus, MEDLINE

JOURNALS EDITORS REVIEWERS

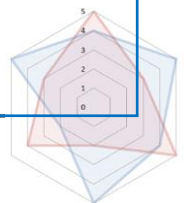
AUTHORS PAPERS CITATIONS

SERVICES

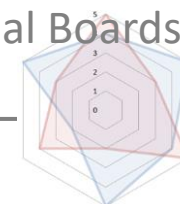
ORCID, CrossCheck, FundRef, CrossRef-DOI, MindTrap, P&LSS, RevRev, NormAll

Quality control:

1. Preventing plagiarism via iThenticate
2. Organizational efficiency and the transparency of editorial procedures
3. Harmonization with COPE recommendations
4. Reviewing reviewers



- Specialized software tool dubbed Reviewing Reviewers (RR) enabling the assessment of the usefulness of peer review reports
- Upgrade to the reviewer rating system by the editorial board
- Includes:
 1. authors questionnaire
 2. statistics module accumulating results
- The RR composite score is used by the Editorial Boards to decide about selecting reviewers in the future, and by CEON/CEES for their awarding and acknowledgments
- Not obligatory, but only exceptionally not used; checked in journal management system (SCIndeks Assistant) by default; initially disputed by some editorial boards
- For co-authored manuscripts questionnaire is filled by the corresponding author (the one who submitted the manuscript), who is supposed to consult the co-authors previously.
- The results of the assessment of the reviews are exclusively made for Editorial Boards and are not available to reviewers.





Reviewing Reviewers – Authors Questionnaire

Authors Questionnaire

Please be sure to answer this short questionnaire. Its only purpose is to analyse the usefulness of reviews in order to improve the the reviewing procedures. Your answers will not be available to the reviewers.

Notes:

- Rate the usefulness, rather than scientific level of the reviews.
- Consult your co-authors if there are any.

1. introduction, setting the problem, topic conceptualization, selection and review of the literature cited*

- ☐ significantly
☐ partially
☒ not at all (or there was no comment/suggestion)

2. description of method, presentation of results (tables and graphs), statistical reasoning (inferences/conclusions)*

- ☒ significantly
☐ partially
☐ not at all (or there was no comment/suggestion)

3. results discussion, line of arguments, terminology, readability*

- ☒ significantly
☐ partially
☐ not at all (or there was no comment/suggestion)

4. overall quality, fundamental contribution, general conclusions, key messages*

- ☐ significantly
☒ partially
☐ not at all (or there was no comment/suggestion)

Confirm

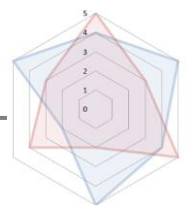


- The effects of use of RR in two previous years (2019-2021 = After) in comparison to the period preceding its implementation (2017-2019 = Before) were analyzed.
- Arbitrarily selected indicators of change in reviewers' behavior were used.

Indicators	Before	After
share (%) of reviews with comments	72.10	78.90*
share (%) of reviews with attachments	44.11	37.25*
average N words in attachments	2200.58	2717.75*
relative N of new reviewers (%)	20.34	32.70*
average N words in comments	175	147*
average rates by editors	4.86	4.85

*The chi-square statistic is significant at $p < .05$.

- Indicators reflecting higher reviewers' helping efforts (given in blue) were increased. Yet, there are two unexpected changes (red).

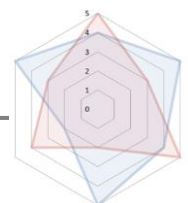


The frequency of reviewers' recommendations before and after introduction of RR

	Before		After	
	N	%	N	%
Accept without changes	2845	43,24	4191	41,66
Accept after changes	2222	33,77	3422	34,15
Accept but resubmit for review	734	11,16	1267	12,59
Publish elsewhere	97	1,47	131	1,30
Decline submission	681	10,35	1049	10,24
Total	6579		10060	

The chi-square statistic is significant at $p < .05$.

Percentage of conditionally accepted manuscripts (blue) increased at the expense of unconditionally accepted (red): we consider this a final proof that RR is efficient.

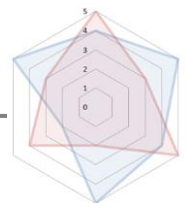


- Based on RR results, the best reviewers in six Frascati areas are honored yearly. The overall best reviewer is awarded the title of the Reviewer of the Year.
- Award was comprised of the diploma, plus the voucher covering the expenses for participating in a scientific conference selected by the laureate.
- The amount awarded was 1500 Euros – quite high for Serbian standards, and CEON/CEES budget.
- The last award ceremony was held on occasion of the International Peer-Review Week 2020. The winner was Professor Slobodan Janković. The news about award was made visable throughout academic society.

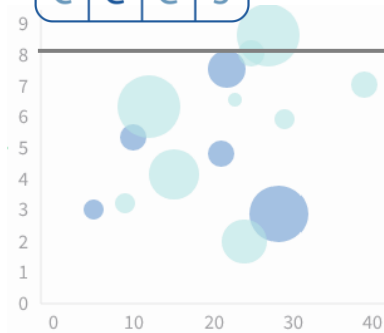
The Reviewer of the Year



Prof. Dr. Slobodan M. Janković, Full Professor at the University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Medicine, and the head of the Kragujevac Clinical Centre, Clinical Pharmacology Department



c	e	o	n
c	e	e	s



CEON/CEES www.ceon.rs
SCIndeks <https://scindeks.ceon.rs>
Assistant <https://aseestant.ceon.rs>

QUESTIONS?

